

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00317 301135Z  
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5550

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 0317

EXDIS

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR  
SUBJ: RECOMMENDED INVITATION TO SHAIKH ZAYID TO VISIT THE US

1. AS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION PREPARES FOR VISITS FROM MIDDLE EAST LEADERS, I HOPE THAT IT WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID TO VISIT WASHINGTON SOME TIME DURING 1977. OBVIOUSLY, VISITS FROM LEADERS OF THE CONFRONTATION STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD HAVE FIRST PRIORITY BUT AFTER THE FIRST WAVE OF KEY MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS HAVE COME TO WASHINGTON, I BELIEVE A STRONG CASE CAN BE MADE TO PUT SHAIKH ZAYID NEAR TOP OF THE LIST.

2. WHILE ZAYID DOES NOT HAVE THE CHARISMATIC QUALITIES OF FAISAL OR THE SOPHISTICATION OF SADAT, HE HAS SHOWN REAL QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP IN STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNDERPINNINGS OF THIS LOOSE CONFEDERATION AND IN FORGING A RESPONSIBLE, UNSELFISH POSITION FOR THE UNION INTERNATIONALLY. HIS GREATEST ASSET HAS BEEN HIS INSTINCTIVE GENEROSITY--HIS SENSE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY--WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN MANY WAYS: THE ABU DHABI EMIRATE FINANCES MOST OF THE ECONOMIC

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ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTHER EMIRATES. THE UAE DEVOTES AN UNUSUALLY LARGE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES TO FOREIGN AID (25 PERCENT OF ABU DHABI REVENUES OR 20 PERCENT OF THE UAE'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT). THE UAE SUPPORTS A CONSTRUCTIVE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND IS AWARE THAT ITS ECONOMIC SECURITY DEPENDS ON A HEALTHY WORLD ECONOMY AND THAT ITS DECISIONS ON OIL AND FINANCIAL

ISSUES IMPACT ON THE WORLD ECONOMY. ZAYID ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT UAE SECURITY RESTS ON HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN. REACHING AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON OUTSTANDING BOUNDARY ISSUES WITH BOTH THESE STATES, INVOLVING REAL CONCESSIONS FROM THE UAE, HAS ASSURED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A STRONG UNION. MOREOVER, SINCE THE UAE WAS FORMED A LITTLE OVER FIVE YEARS AGO, ZAYID'S SENSE OF SHARED INTERESTS WITH THE US HAS ALSO GROWN AS HAS HIS AWARENESS OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COST OF RENEWED ARAB-ISRAEL WARFARE.

3. WHILE I AM MOST SENSITIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS THAT AN INVITATION TO ZAYID WOULD TRIGGER DEMANDS FROM LEADERS OF OTHER SMALL GULF STATES TO RECEIVE SIMILAR INVITATIONS, I THINK ZAYID HAS EARNED THE PREMIER POSITION IN VIEW OF THE RESPONSIBLE AND MODERATE ROLE HE HAS PLAYED, IN RECOGNITION OF HIS REELECTION TO ANOTHER FIVE YEAR TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE UAE, AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT US INTERESTS IN THE UAE HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY. AFTER ALL, THE UAE IS WORLD'S LARGEST AID DONOR, IT SOON WILL BE FOURTH LARGEST OIL EXPORTER AND IS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF OIL FOR THE US, ITS MARKET FOR US GOODS AND SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW (PROVIDED WE ARE NOT HOBbled BY BOYCOTT LEGISLATION) RANKING IN AMONG THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT TRADING NATIONS FOR THE US, AND IT HAS SHOWN COURAGE IN HOLDING LINE ON OIL PRICES. NOT ONLY HAS IT REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH OPEC MAJORITY ON PRICE RISE BUT IT HAS UP TO NOW FOREGONE  
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ANY INCREASE IN QUALITY DIFFERENTIALS EVEN THOUGH IT COULD EASILY SELL ITS LOW SULFUR, HIGH GRAVITY CRUDES AT A PREMIUM. AT MOMENT, THE UAE IS SAVING CONSUMER BETWEEN 73 AND 93 CENTS PER BBL (DEPENDING ON QUALITY) AND IMPACT OF ITS DECISION WILL BE GREATER IF OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES BRING THEIR PRICES DOWN TO SAUDI-UAE LEVELS.

4. A VISIT BY ZAYID WOULD ALSO PAY FUTURE DIVIDENDS FOR OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. ANY FUTURE SETTLEMENT WILL REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL AID OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME FROM OIL RICH ARAB STATES AND ZAYID WOULD BE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUR VIEWS OF POSITIVE ROLE WHICH UAE COULD PLAY. FINALLY, THE PRESTIGE OF A WASHINGTON VISIT WOULD ALSO GIVE MEANING TO OUR OFT-EXPRESSED STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED KNITTING TOGETHER OF THE EMIRATES. ZAYID IS THE SYMBOL OF THIS UNION.

5. TO SUM UP, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF THINGS GOING FOR US

HERE AND A ZAYID VISIT WOULD BE RECOGNITION OF THESE.  
DICKMAN

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NNN

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